



# Objection 50

Zoe Exton

2 pages

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**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Saturday, 8 June 2024 7:48 AM

**To:** FedRedistribution - VIC

**Cc:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** Higgins redistribution objection

**Categories:** [REDACTED]

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Subject: Objection to the Abolition of the Federal Electoral Seat of Higgins

Dear Australian Electoral Commission,

My name is Zoe Exton, and I am writing to express my strong objection to the proposed abolition of the federal electoral seat of Higgins in Melbourne. As a resident of Stonnington, I am deeply concerned about the potential impacts this decision will have on our community.

The seat of Higgins has long been a cornerstone of our local identity, and its proposed dissolution into neighbouring electorates like Chisholm, Hotham, Kooyong, Macnamara, and Melbourne is troubling for several reasons.

Firstly, the abolition of Higgins will dilute the voice of Higgins/Stonnington residents, reducing our influence in federal politics and potentially leading to less tailored representation for our local needs. Our community has unique concerns and priorities that may not be adequately addressed if we are absorbed into larger, more diverse electorates.

Moreover, the loss of representation for long-standing Higgins residents and community groups is a significant concern. The residents of Higgins have established relationships with our current MP, and these relationships are crucial for effective advocacy and service delivery. Disrupting these relationships could lead to a loss of momentum for ongoing local projects and initiatives, which are vital for the well-being of our community.

The unique community identity and history of Higgins are also at risk. Higgins has a rich history and a strong sense of community that will be disrupted if our electorate is split and absorbed into different electorates with potentially different priorities. This could lead to a loss of community cohesion and a sense of belonging among residents.

Furthermore, the proposed changes could lead to electoral confusion among voters. Residents may be unsure about their new electorates, polling places, and representatives, which could lead to decreased voter engagement and participation. This is particularly concerning in a time when encouraging voter participation is more important than ever.

I urge the AEC to reconsider the decision to abolish the federal electoral seat of Higgins. Maintaining the current electoral structure is essential for the benefit of Higgins residents, ensuring that our unique community identity, representation, and local needs are preserved.

Thank you for considering my concerns.

Yours sincerely,

Zoe Exton

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